

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-07

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3064

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

CINCLANT

CINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 LUANDA 984

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

CINCLANT FOR POLAD

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT AO

SUBJ: COALITION GOVERNMENT STYMIED

1. SUMMARY. THE LIBERATION GROUPS, ESPECIALLY THE MPLA, ARE POSING OBSTACLES TO THE FORMATION OF A COALITION GOVERNMENT. THE JUNTA NOW HOPES TO WIN THE COOPERATION OF THE MOVEMENTS IN A DECOLONIZATION COMMISSION THAT WILL WORK WITH THE GOVERNMENT ON SPECIFIC PROBLEMS. THE JUNTA PRESIDENT STILL HAS NOT ABANDONED THE IDEA OF TALKING WITH THE HEADS OF THE MPLA AND FNL. IN CON-  
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TRAST TO MPLA PRIVATE INTRANSIGENCE, LUCIO LARA GAVE A PRESS CON-

ERENCE IN WHICH HE DEPLORED VIOLENCE AND APPROVED COOPERATION AMONG THE LIBERATION GROUPS. END SUMMARY.

2. JUNTA PRESIDENT ADMIRAL ROSA COUTINHO TOLD ME ON NOVEMBER THIRTEEN THAT HIS EFFORTS TO OBTAIN THE COOPERATION OF THE THREE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN THE FORMATION OF A COALITION GOVERNMENT HAVE MET WITH ALMOST NO SUCCESS, DUE MAINLY TO THE INTRANSIGENCE OF THE MPLA. THE MPLA DELEGATION SAID THEY DID NOT EVEN WANT TO MEET THE OTHER GROUPS ON THE STAIRCASE, LET ALONE SIT DOWN AND TALK WITH THEM. THE FNLA AND UNITA ARE QUITE WILLING TO TALK WITH EACH OTHER AND THE MPLA. THE ADMIRAL WENT ON TO SAY, HOWEVER, THAT NO GROUP IS BLAMELESS, AS EACH WANTS THE PRIME MINERSHIP AND NONE IS WILLING TO CONCEDE THAT POST TO ANOTHER, OR TO A FOURTH PARTY. THE GROUPS HAVE NOW SUGGESTED THAT THE PORTUGUESE ABANDON THE IDEA OF PRIME MINISTER. THEY BELIEVE THAT WHOEVER TAKES THE OFFICE OF PRIME MINISTER NOW TAKES THE NATION AFTER INDEPENDENCE. AT THE CABINET LEVEL, THE GROUPS TOLD THE ADMIRAL THEY PREFERRED THAT THE TERM "MINISTER" NOT BE USED AS IT WOULD CONNOTE A CERTAIN PERMANENCE AND STATUS THAT CAN BE CONFERRED ONLY UPON OFFICIALS OF AN INDEPENDENT NATION. AS FOR THE DIVISION OF CABINET JOBS, THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO AGREEMENT; ALL THREE WANT THE SAME POSTS.

3. I ASKED THE ADMIRAL ABOUT HIS INTENTION TO TALK WITH THE HEADS OF ALL THREE GROUPS AND ACT AS INTERLOCUTOR (LUANDA 925). HE SAID HE HAS HAD NO LUCK ARRANGING MEETINGS WITH EITHER HOLDEN ROBERTO OR AGOSTINHO NETO, BUT HAS NOT GIVEN UP HOPE. HE THINKS HOLDEN ROBERTO BELIEVES THE CANARD THAT HE IS A COMMUNIST AND THAT HE ALSO HARBORS RESENTMENT AGAINST ROBERTO, WHOSE FORMER REVOLUTIONARY VEHICLE, THE UPA, WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN CAPTURING AND IMPRISONING THE ADMIRAL FOR FOUR MONTHS IN 1961 WHEN HE WAS ON A HYDROGRAPHIC MISSION ON THE CONGO RIVER.

4. MEANWHILE, THE ADMIRAL HAS RESURRECTED THE IDEA OF INDUCING COOPERATION AMONG THE THREE AT THE LEVEL OF A DECOLONIZATION, OR INDEPENDENCE, COMMISSION, WHOSE TASK IT WILL BE TO ASSIST THE GOVERNMENT IN SUCH AREAS AS WELFARE, SECURITY, LABOR PROBLEMS AND OTHER MATTERS IN WHICH THE GROUPS CAN DEAL DIRECTLY WITH THEIR SUPPORTERS. THE CONCEPT AS HE EXPRESSED IT WAS NOT FULLY THOUGHT OUT, BUT AT A PRESS CONFERENCE ON NOVEMBER 13 THE GOVERNMENT'S

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INFORMATION SECRETARY SAID THIS WOULD BE THE VEHICLE THROUGH WHICH THE COOPERATION OF THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS WOULD BE SOUGHT UNTIL SUCH TIME AS A COALITION GOVERNMENT CAN BE ARRANGED.

5. THE ADMIRAL SAID THAT THE NEW STATUTE GIVING ANGOLA INTERNAL AUTONOMY MIGHT BE PRESENTED TO THE COUNCIL OF STATE IN LISBON DURING THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 18-23; ONCE HE HAS THE STATUTE IN HAND HE BELIEVES HE WILL BE ABLE TO MOVE THE LIBERATION GROUPS ALONG

A BIT FASTER TOWARD COOPERATION.

6. ALL IN ALL, THE ADMIRAL STILL SEEMED OPTIMISTIC; WHEN SOMETHING DOESN'T WORK HE TRIES ANOTHER TACK. WHEN I RAISED WITH HIM THE STORIES ABOUT HIS IMMINENT REMOVAL FROM THE JOB, HE SAID HE WAS SENT DOWN TO DO A JOB. ANYTIME HIS SUPERIORS WANT HIM OUT THEY HAVE ONLY TO SAY THE WORD. HE SAID HIS ENEMIES GOT THE STORY PLANTED IN THE LISBON PRESS TO GIVE IT GREATER CREDIBILITY WHEN PUBLISHED HERE.

7. IN A TALK WITH JUNTA MEMBER, BRIGADIER GENERAL SILVA CORDOSO, ON NOVEMBER 12 I LEARNED THAT LUCIO LARA SPENT ONE HOUR WITH SILVA CARDOSO ON NOVEMBER 11 AND DURING THE ENTIRE DISCUSSION REFUSED TO RECOGNIZE THE RIGHTS OF ANY OTHER ORGANIZATION TO A MAJOR VOICE IN ANGOLAN POLITICAL AFFAIRS. LARA MAINTAINED THAT MPLA IS THE PREMIER POLITICAL GROUP IN ANGOLA, THAT IT ENJOYS THE SUPPORT OF AN OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF THE POPULATION, THAT IT REPRESENTS THE TRUE ASPIRATIONS OF THE PEOPLE AND THAT ALL OTHER PRETENDERS TO POWER ARE USURPERS CONTROLLED BY FOREIGN INTERESTS. THE JUNTA ASKED LARA TO APPOINT AN MPLA MEMBER TO SIT IN THE MILITARY OPERATIONS CENTER ALONG WITH UNITA AND FNL TO HELP COORDINATE PACIFICATION EFFORTS. LARA REFUSED. NEVERTHELESS, MPLA IS TAKING A HAND IN THE EFFORT TO RESTORE ORDER, BUT WITHOUT REFERENCE TO ANY OTHER ORGANIZATIONN.

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ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

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8. IN RELATED DEVELOPMENTS, LUCIO LARA GAVE A PRESS CONFERENCE ON NOVEMBER 13 IN WHICH HE APPEARED TO BE THE SOUL OF COOPERATION. HE DEPLORED THE VIOLENCE. HE WAS INCENSED OVER WHAT HE CALLED THE INSIDIOUS EFFORTS OF SOME PEOPLE TO BLACKEN THE GOOD NAME OF THE MPLA. INDIVIDUALS WITH MPLA ARMBANDS AND FLAGS WERE COMMITTING ANY NUMBER OF ATROCITIES IN THE NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION. HE REFERRED TO RUMORS THAT THE MPLA WAS ABOUT TO UNLEASH A NEW WAVE

OF VIOLENCE ON THE CITY AND APPEALED TO ALL NOT TO BELIEVE SUCH STORIES. "OUR POLICY IS ONE OF NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION AND CONFIDENTIAL

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TO CARRY IT OUT WE NEED PEACE AND UNDERSTANDING; FOR THAT REASON WE CONDEMN ALL VIOLENCE." THE MPLA IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DISORDERS, HE SAID, BUT IS COLLABORATING WITH THE AUTHORITIES TO RESTORE CALM.

9. LARA TURNED NEXT TO AN ATTEMPT MADE ON HIS LIFE AND THE LIVES OF OTHERS IN A GROUP WITH HIM ON NOVEMBER 11. A PASSING CAR RAKED THE GROUP WITH SUBMACHINE GUN FIRE. THREE PERSONS WERE WOUNDED, BUT LARA ESCAPED UNSCATCHED. HE ACCUSED THE POLICE OF PERPETRATING THE ATTACK. HE SUGGESTED THE RAPID DISMANTLING OF SUCH ORGANIZATIONS AS THE VOLUNTEER MILITIA (OPVDCA).

10. LARA ATTACKED THE RECENT WAVE OF STRIKES IN LUANDA AND CONDEMned THE DISRUPTIVE ACTIVITIES OF MAURICIO LUVUALO, SECRETARY GENERAL OF UNTA. (LUVUALO SHOWED UP AT THE CONSULATE NEXT DAY TO TELL ME HE WAS TAKING A TRIP AND TO HIT ME UP FOR A LITTLE CASH. I TOLD HIM THAT WOULD BE INTERFERENCE IN THE DOMESTIC AFFAIRS OF ANGOLA.) STRIKES, SAID LARA, SHOULD BE ORGANIZED AND HAVE SOME POSITIVE GOAL IN MIND.

11. ON COOPERATION WITH OTHER LIBERATION GROUPS, LARA MADE A NUMBER OF CONCILIATORY STATEMENTS THAT MADE HIM APPEAR THE MOST REASONABLE OF MEN. HE SAID THAT AUNITED FRONT MIGHT NOT NECESSARILY BE REQUIRED TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE PORTUGUESE. THE IMPORTANT

THING, HE SAID, IS TO DETERMINE THE FUNDAMENTAL POINTS ON WHICH WE WANT GUARANTEES FROM THE PORTUGUESE DURING THE DECOLONIZATION PROCESS.

12. ON CONTROL OF THE VIOLENCE, LARA SAID THAT A FIRST STEP WOULD HAVE BEEN TAKEN IF BLACK TROOPS WERE CHARGED WITH MAINTAINING ORDER IN THE GHETTOES AND GIVEN THE MEANS TO DO SO. AT THE SAME TIME, EFFECTIVE MEASURES MUST BE TAKEN TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEMS OF THE GHETTOES. HE RECOMMENDED A COMMISSION ENTRUSTED WITH PROVIDING FOOD, WATER AND HYGENIC CONDITIONS.

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